

XXVIII.—*Birds of the Suez Canal Zone and Sinai Peninsula.*

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SHORTLY after the outbreak of war I was stationed in Cairo, where I had the good fortune to meet Mr. J. L. Bonhote and Mr. M. J. Nicoll, and from them to learn to distinguish many of the local birds very much more quickly than I could possibly have done unaided; so many of the species were entirely new to me that without their assistance I should have been unable to compile even so incomplete a list as this.

After the Gallipoli campaign we returned to Egypt, and were there till February 1917: first on and about the Canal, and later in various places along the north Sinai road from Kantara to El Arish.

In this paper I propose to deal only with the birds seen after our return in 1916 up to February 1917. Very many interesting species noted near Alexandria and Cairo were never seen further east: the Great Spotted Cuckoo, the Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Pratincole, Black-tailed Godwit, Marsh and Wood Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilt, and very many other interesting birds which I saw near Cairo (in some cases in large flocks), were never seen near the Canal; the same applies to the common spring warblers such as Rüppell's, Bonelli's, the Olivaceous and Subalpine Warblers, and many other species. I did not even see the abundant little Warbler of the Delta, *Prinia gracilis*, and have no note of the occurrence of the Palm-Dove (*Turtus senegalensis*), nor of the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), though doubtless all three will occur in some of the cultivated land near Ismailia or Suez. More strange perhaps was the entire absence, so far as I could judge, of any species of *Ammomanes*, the Desert Larks, which I often saw near Cairo and which might surely have been expected to be plentiful enough.

During the spring migration of 1916 I unfortunately had little time for observation, and many species must have passed through unseen; but in the autumn I had rather

better opportunities at Romani and at Mohammedia on the coast, a few miles north of Romani.

The direction taken by migrating birds in the autumn was interesting: Ducks in remarkable numbers were continually passing in September (always too far out at sea for the purposes of identification), and they, Herons, Waders, &c. all passed from east to west—along or parallel to the coast. On some days in September countless thousands must have passed, flock following flock for hour after hour, and always in the same direction, from east to west. The smaller birds however, the Quail, Warblers, Wheatears, and such species, which were passing in great numbers at the same time, were moving (so far as my own observation went) always from north to south, and during the daytime I not infrequently saw them come in from the north over the sea and pass straight on into the desert, where the scrub for weeks was full of Warblers, Shrikes, and Buntings, in every direction—a remarkable change compared with the scanty resident bird-population of a few weeks earlier.

Later in the year, however,—at the end of October and in early November—I noticed that Skylarks in great flocks (and Starlings to a certain extent), which had just arrived, were passing at Romani, a few miles from the coast, in the east to west direction, which the Ducks followed two months earlier.

During our progress east as far as El Arish little bird-life was to be seen in the desert: migration was then practically over, and it is evident that no great numbers of birds are resident there; there were, of course, the usual desert species, such as the Pallid Shrike (*Lanius elegans*), the Bifasciated Lark (*Certhilauda alaudipes*), Crested Larks, in patches of suitable ground, and other familiar species, but often a day would pass and a few Brown-necked Ravens be the only birds seen.

It was quite impossible to collect any specimens, and I was therefore unable to identify more than a tithe of the Warblers and Buntings in their autumn plumage. A collector would find much of interest in Sinai.

The character of the country varied, though for the great part of our time we were on the desert. The only cultivation we saw was a fruitful tract of land at Suez and a much smaller patch at Ismailia, though there was a certain amount of growth along the Sweet-Water Canal, which runs parallel to and a few yards from the Suez Canal.

The desert east of the Suez Canal in the south was bare, with very little scrub of any sort, but further north round Ballah the scrub grew thicker altogether, and along the north road the desert was thickly covered in many parts as far as the eye could see. This road too was relieved by fairly frequent Palm-“Hods,” and at Katia the oasis was of considerable extent. All along the road water of brackish quality is plentiful, and consequently the Palm-Hods usually occur every few miles; it is only on reaching El Arish that the desert—sand-dunes west of the town—becomes quite bare again.

The number of birds to be seen is naturally smaller where the desert is quite bare, but it cannot be said that the more thickly covered tracts held any great numbers except during the period of migration.

Two very fruitful spots I was unable to visit except on two or three occasions: a salt-marsh between Suez and Kubri, and another marsh on the north coast near Port Said, which I only saw from the coast railway. Systematic observation and collecting would soon add scores of species to the following list.

Dates given refer to 1916 unless otherwise stated.

The nomenclature is that of Dresser's ‘Manual of Palearctic Birds’ (1903); the difficulty of distinguishing many subspecies without collecting made it impossible to discriminate more closely.

Turdus viscivorus. Missel-Thrush.

A single bird flew south over the sand-dunes at Mohammedia on 29 October. This is, I understand, the first record of this bird for Egypt; my attention was fortunately first attracted by its call-note, so that I was able to identify it with certainty.

Turdus musicus. Song-Thrush.

One at the end of October at Romani and one at Ismailia in the palm-grove on 18 Feb., 1917.

Turdus merula. Blackbird.

One among the palms at Ismailia on 18 Feb., 1917, was the only specimen seen, but I believe that several birds seen at dusk at Rabah (N. of Katia) on 20 Nov. were Blackbirds.

Monticola saxatilis Rock-Thrush.

A single female or immature male at Mohammedia on 17 Oct. I saw a number at Alexandria in the spring of 1915.

Monticola cyanus. Blue Rock-Thrush.

One at Shallufa on the Canal-bank on 16 March.

Saxicola œnanthe. Common Wheatear.

I saw this species first on 22 March at Shallufa, and by 1 April it was quite common there and in large numbers at Suez on 3 April. In the autumn it was quite common at Romani in September.

Saxicola melanoleuca. Black-throated Wheatear.

A few at Shallufa and Suez in early April; on 14 April some numbers were passing at Suez. Odd specimens at Romani at the end of August and in early September.

[*Saxicola finschi.* Arabian Wheatear.

Several birds at Mazar seen during the first fortnight of December were almost certainly of this species, but I prefer not to say so definitely as I was unable to secure any specimens.]

Saxicola deserti. Desert Wheatear.

A few seen as far east as Mazar along the Sinai desert.

Saxicola isabellina. Isabelline Wheatear.

On 4 July I got a view of a bird that looked like an Isabelline at Ballah near the Canal. In the autumn it was very common at Mohammedia in October.

The Wheatears proved to be a most difficult group owing to the impossibility of handling any specimens, and I saw at least two more species which I cannot identify.

Pratincola rubetra. Whinchat.

A number were passing at Suez from April 14 to 23; in the autumn I saw only a single specimen at Mohammedia on Oct. 15.

Pratincola rubicola. Stonechat.

First seen on Oct. 20 at Mohammedia; a few there and at Romani from that time till we went forward to Mazar. On the march along the north Sinai road about the end of November I saw them commonly.

Ruticilla phœnicurus. Redstart.

From Oct. 11 to 17 this species was quite common at Mohammedia, especially in the small bushes on the sand-hills near the sea.

Ruticilla titys. Black Redstart.

A male at Romani on Nov. 17; a single bird at Rabah on Nov. 22.

Erithacus rubecula. Redbreast.

I saw none till Nov. 24 and 25 at Tillul (near Mazar) and again on Nov. 28 at Mazar; one or two in the palm-grove at Ismailia on Feb. 18, 1917.

Daulias lusciniæ. Nightingale.

I got a poor view of a bird that was almost certainly a Nightingale on April 23 at Suez; one near Romani on Sept. 9 in the desert-scrub.

Sylvia curruca. Lesser Whitethroat.

Several on Sept. 1 at Mohammedia; Sept. 6 to 19 common at Romani.

Phylloscopus trochilus. Willow-Wren.

Still passing on Sept. 28 near Kantara.

Phylloscopus collybita. Chiffchaff.

About the first week of November I noticed these birds quite commonly among some trees at Romani.

Aedon galactodes. Rufous Warbler.

When we reached the Katia oasis on Aug. 6 these were fairly common and evidently breed there, for I saw a young bird among the palms on Aug. 11. They seemed to be very fond of the bushy tops of the palms. I also saw an odd bird at Romani on Aug. 22, but they seem quite uncommon on the desert.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus. Great Reed-Warbler.

In the reeds by the Sweet-Water Canal, Shallufa, in March. I had no means of deciding whether this was one of the Egyptian subspecies or not.

Cisticola cisticola. Fantail Warbler.

At Suez in April in the cultivation.

Motacilla alba. White Wagtail.

In the spring I have no note of their occurrence after April 13, when they were not uncommon at Suez. In the autumn I first saw two on Oct. 5 a few miles east of Kantara, though I had heard passing birds calling for a few days; from that date they were fairly common in the desert, and I noticed an increase at Mohammedia in the last weeks of October. At the beginning of November they were abundant and very tame, often coming into our tents. About Dec. 26 they seemed to increase in numbers locally at Mazar, where there were several considerable flocks, and again at Ismailia in February, 1917, they were remarkably common in the camps, where I heard one singing on Feb. 20.

Motacilla flava. Blue-headed Wagtail.

On April 13 and 14 patches of cultivation at Suez were full of Yellow Wagtails most of which were of this species, and they were still passing on April 29.

In the autumn Yellow Wagtails first appeared at Romani on Aug. 24, and were very abundant there and at Mohammedia till about Sept. 19, but the majority seemed to be young birds and it was difficult to distinguish the species. On the Gallipoli Peninsula in the previous year they appeared for the first time in the autumn, on Aug. 19.

Motacilla viridis. Grey-headed Wagtail.

On April 14 and 29 at Suez in the large Wagtail flocks.

Motacilla melanocephala. Black-headed Wagtail.

On April 13 at Suez and Aug. 24 at Romani. These were the only ones I definitely identified.

[*Anthus richardi.* Richard's Pipit.

On March 31 at Shallufa and April 3 at Suez I saw large Pipits which I think were of this species.]

I failed to identify any Pipits definitely, but I think I saw Tree-Pipits at Suez on April 14. In the spring of 1915, when I had more time for observation, I saw many Red-throated, Tree, and Tawny Pipits in the Delta.

Lanius elegans. Pallid Shrike.

This was a common resident species from Ballah and Kantara on the Canal to Mazar. I saw it frequently all along the north road, and at Katia on Aug. 11 saw one with a young bird. It was quite common in and about the camps at Mazar in December.

Lanius collurio. Red-backed Shrike.

First seen at Romani on Aug. 21 and in numbers till Sept. 10; they were noticeably common about the end of August among the desert-scrub.

Lanius auriculatus. Woodchat Shrike.

One seen on April 15 at Suez in a bush at the edge of the cultivation.

Lanius nubicus. Masked Shrike.

On April 21 I saw one at Port Tewfik (Suez) in a tree at the water's edge; in the autumn there was one at Romani on Aug. 22.

Muscicapa grisola. Spotted Flycatcher.

Several on April 21 at Port Tewfik; one at Mohammedia on Oct. 22.

Muscicapa collaris. White-collared Flycatcher.

There was a number in an isolated palm-grove in the desert near Suez on April 12.

Hirundo rustica. Swallow.

Swallows were passing on March 22 at Shallufa, and by April 14 had become quite common at Suez and were passing north daily in small flocks throughout the month. From May 21 to 27 they were always present in Suez and Kubri in small numbers everywhere, and there were odd birds at Kubri and a few miles east of Kubri on the desert on June 4 and 14—a late date when it is considered that they do not breed in Egypt. The return migration began as early as Aug. 7, when I saw a single bird at Katia; by Aug. 31 many were passing south at Mohammedia, and there and at Romani they were quite common for the first three weeks of September. There were always a few to be seen till the fourth week of October, but I have no note of any occurrence after Oct. 24, when there was still a fair number about.

Hirundo savignii.

This, the Egyptian subspecies, I never saw out in the desert, though it was common enough in such places as Kantara. On Sept. 8 at Kantara (when the migration of Swallows was at its height) the typical Swallow was in far greater numbers than this form, which was there through the summer. A friend found a nest there and told me that the birds had chestnut underparts.

Chelidon urbica. House-Martin.

Strangely few of this species were seen: I saw odd birds on April 14 and 21, and on April 29 noticed their passing in numbers, but that was the only occasion on which I saw many. On June 2 two were flying round a camp in the desert some miles east of Kubri, on the Canal.

Cotile riparia. Sand-Martin.

On April 1 a few were passing Shallufa with typical Swallows, and others at Suez on April 23. At Kubri I found them common on May 25, but these last were most probably of the Egyptian subspecies (*littoralis* or *shelleji*) which breeds

in Egypt. On Aug. 30 and 31 very many were going south at Mohammedia on the north coast; these will almost certainly have been typical Sand-Martins.

Cotile obsoleta. Pale Crag-Martin.

One or two at Suez over the desert just west of the town on May 23. I saw this bird in plenty at Luxor during a short visit in March 1915.

Passer domesticus. House-Sparrow.

Common at all the canal and desert camps. At such places as Mazar it was there practically as soon as the troops and in some numbers. In each desert camp such as Romani, Bir-el-Abd, &c. it was abundant.

I cannot state definitely the dates on which Sparrows first occupied the desert camps, but they were in each when I passed through them and were already well established at Mazar—not far from El Arish—not long after it was occupied late in the autumn. Whether they moved to the new camps in the spring I am quite unable to say, as at that time we were on or about the Canal in older established positions.

Fringilla cœlebs. Chaffinch.

First seen at Mohammedia on Oct. 23; on Nov. 17 I saw a fair-sized flock at Romani.

[*Emberiza cæsia.* Cretzschmar's Bunting.

I believe that some of the fairly numerous Buntings passing at the end of August were of this species, but I rarely got more than a fleeting glance of them and prefer not to say so definitely; it is almost certain to have been one of several species seen.]

Certhilauda alaudipes. Bifasciated Lark.

This striking desert bird was not uncommon at all places from Kantara to Mazar along the north road, and I also saw it at Ballah on the Canal, a little distance south of Kantara.

Alauda arvensis. Skylark.

The first arrived at Mohammedia in the last week of October, and during the first four days of November there was a very noticeable movement of large numbers at Romani from east to west. A week later there were still many about, but the east to west movement was not so definite; towards the end of the month they were to be seen commonly all along the north road from Romani eastwards. An increase in numbers was noticed at Mazar about New Year's Day, 1917.

Corydus cristatus. Crested Lark.

This bird occurred very plentifully in suitable spots such as Kubri, but was not to be seen except in the damper parts of the desert where there was plenty of low vegetation; thus there were a few at Mohammedia and Romani about certain patches of ground, and again near Bir-el-Abd, while at Tillul some distance further east they suddenly became abundant and disappeared in a few miles. They always seem to be very tame birds.

Calandrella brachydactyla. Short-toed Lark.

In the spring I saw only one small bunch—at Shallufa on March 26. In the autumn large flocks containing several hundreds were common near Romani and Kantara from Sept. 6 to the end of the month.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.

First seen at Mohammedia on Oct. 23 and in considerable flocks throughout November. In mid-winter they were not to be seen regularly about the desert, though I noticed them at Mazar on the last day of the year.

Corvus umbrinus. Brown-necked Raven.

To be seen everywhere from Suez along the Canal, usually in pairs; near the Canal I never saw more than ten together (at Kubri in June), but they were remarkably numerous along the north road at Bir-el-Abd, Bir-el-Salmana, and Mazar—frequently the commonest bird by far.

Cypselus apus. Swift.

Odd birds were passing at Suez on April 21 and 23, which, so far as I could judge, were certainly Common Swifts; the Pallid Swift (*C. murinus*), which I saw in great quantity at Cairo and Luxor, may possibly have been passing, and these two species are difficult to distinguish on the wing when at any height.

Caprimulgus sp.? Nightjar.

On Oct. 19 two flying in our camp on the coast at Mohammedia at dusk.

Alcedo ispida. Kingfisher.

In April at Suez; early in September this bird was quite abundant at Mohammedia and all along the coast from there to Port Said, fishing in the pools and perching on the scrub growing on the sand-hills. I think that this was entirely a migratory movement, as I have no note of its occurrence during the last two weeks of October and early November, though I passed over exactly the same ground.

Whether these were of the Egyptian subspecies, *Alcedo i. pallida*, I cannot say.

Ceryle rudis. Pied Kingfisher.

At various places on the Suez Canal and also by Lake Timsah, at Ismailia.

Coracias garrulus. Roller.

On April 23 some scores were along the edge of the marsh north of Suez, where there had been none the previous day; on April 29 there were five left. On the return migration I saw two at "Mt. Royston" during the Romani—Katia battle on Aug. 5 and one at Katia on Aug. 13; by Aug. 26 there were numbers at Romani, where I last saw one on Sept. 7.

Merops apiaster. Bee-eater.

There were twenty in one tree at Suez on April 14, evidently just newly arrived; from April 19 to 23 they were passing in great numbers at Suez, and were to be seen everywhere in the cultivated parts.

Merops persicus. Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.

I saw none till April 29 at Suez, where there was a flock, and on the following day there were many by the railway between Suez and Ismailia.

In 1915 at Cairo I saw *M. persicus* considerably earlier than *M. apiaster*, and believe that usually it is the earlier to arrive. I never saw the Green Bee-eater (*M. viridis*) east of Cairo.

Upupa epops. Hoopoe.

From April 2 to 29 on a number of occasions I saw odd birds passing at Suez and Port Tewfik, on one occasion at some distance out in the desert; odd birds were returning at Romani and Mohammedia at the end of August. I believe that all these were typical Hoopoes passing to and from Europe rather than the local subspecies, *U. e. major*.

Asio accipitrinus. Short-eared Owl.

On Nov. 5 and 7 I saw a single bird at the same spot near the railway half-way between Port Said and Mohammedia.

Gyps fulvus. Griffon Vulture.

On June 5 I got within a few yards of one which was on a sand-hill in the desert a few miles east of Kubri.

On the north road I saw strangely few: one at Katia flying over the oasis on Aug. 12, and at Mazar, one on Nov. 28, and five on Dec. 13 circling at a great height over the camp. The Turks in their retirement had left numbers of dead horses and draught-bullocks by the track which, one might have expected, would have attracted them.

Neophron percnopterus. Egyptian Vulture.

Not uncommon along the Canal from Ismailia to Suez, but I never saw a single bird at Kantara or anywhere east of that place in the Sinai Peninsula.

Circus æruginosus. Marsh-Harrier.

A single bird at Mohammedia on Sept. 1.

[*Circus cyaneus*. Hen-Harrier.

A single bird flying among the sand-dunes at Rabah, just north of Katia, was too dark for a Pallid Harrier and was most probably of this species.]

Buteo desertorum. Desert-Buzzard.

Fairly common along the Canal from Suez northwards and all along the north road.

Buteo ferox. Long-legged Buzzard.

A few in various places, but much less common than *B. desertorum*; a splendid male at Shallufa on April 1.

Archibuteo lagopus. Rough-legged Buzzard.

I got a good view of a single bird among the sand-dunes at Romani on Nov. 15.

I twice (at Suez and Mohammedia) during migration saw what were evidently Eagles, but I could not identify them satisfactorily.

Milvus ægyptius. Yellow-billed Kite.

Common at Ismailia; at Kantara in July. On Oct. 16 and 17 there were two at Mohammedia at the edge of the sea, and I distinctly saw their yellow bills. It would seem that they were migrating, as there were no resident birds there; Mr. Bonhote told me that he secured one in the autumn on the coast of the Delta, to the east of Port Said.

[*Falco cherrug*. Saker.

On Oct. 22 I saw a Falcon at Mohammedia closely resembling specimens in the Cairo Museum and the Dresser collection.]

[*Falco subbuteo*. Hobby.

A small Falcon, most probably a Hobby, flew overhead by the sea at Mohammedia on Oct. 16.]

Falco tinnunculus. Kestrel.

Fairly common along the Canal and as far east as El Arish. I did not identify the Lesser Kestrel, which probably occurs also.

Phalacrocorax carbo. Cormorant.

Five at Suez on April 2 by the Gulf of Suez.

Pelecanus sp. ? Pelican.

Fifteen flying west at Mohammedia on Oct. 20.

Ardea cinerea. Grey Heron.

A few at Shallufa and Suez in April.

Ardea purpurea. Purple Heron.

One at Shallufa on April 1 by a pool near the Sweet-Water Canal. In the autumn I first saw a few on Sept. 1 and 2 at Mohammedia ; on Sept. 3 I saw two flocks, one of which must have numbered hundreds, passing from east to west along the coast between Mohammedia and Port Said.

Ardea ralloides. Squacco Heron.

On May 27 there was a single bird in a marsh on the west side of the Canal at Kubri, but I saw no others ; near Cairo in 1915 I saw it in some numbers.

Nycticorax griseus. Night-Heron.

Early in September I twice saw birds passing too far out at sea to be identified with certainty, but on Oct. 12 I found two young birds in a thorny bush near the sea and identified them at close quarters. I knew the bird well from having seen it frequently in the well-known colony at the Zoological Gardens at Giza.

Ciconia alba. White Stork.

On April 22 there were hundreds on the salt-marsh north of Suez and scattered in smaller numbers among the fields and in the cultivation ; but on the next day only a few were left, and they were reduced to six by April 29. A single bird which I saw near Kubri on May 27 was probably a cripple.

Ciconia nigra. Black Stork.

On April 29, on the marsh north of Suez, there was a flock numbering between sixty and seventy.

Phœnicopterus roseus. Flamingo.

On Oct. 11 a flock of sixty was passing along the coast from east to west at Mohammedia. On Nov. 7, on the

inundation near Port Said, there must have been several thousands; I was told that they were very commonly seen on the inundations.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveler.

On April 3 I saw a small bunch (4 drakes and 6 ducks), flying along the edge of the Gulf of Suez, which later settled in shallow water. Probably many of the Duck seen off the north coast in autumn were of this among other species.

Querquedula ciria. Garganey.

Two drakes on April 3 on the Gulf of Suez with the Shovelers. Round Cairo I saw this species on a good number of occasions.

Mareca penelope. Wigeon.

On April 1 there was a flock of thirty to thirty-five on a pool and a shallow salt-lagoon at Shallufa, just on the west side of the Suez Canal.

Turtur communis. Turtle-Dove.

Passing at Suez from April 24 to 29, when they were quite common; common for the first three weeks of September at Mohammedia and Romani.

I have no note of the occurrence of *T. senegalensis* in the Canal zone; possibly I saw this abundant Egyptian bird and failed to record it in my note-book.

***Pterocles* sp.?** Sand-Grouse.

I saw birds at Shallufa in April, east of Kantara in July, and in December at Mazar on the sand-dunes, but never sufficiently well to be able to determine the species.

Coturnix communis. Quail.

In the spring I saw only six birds at Shallufa on March 25 and one at Suez on April 14. In autumn they were first seen at Mohammedia on Sept. 1, and were common there and at Romani during the first three weeks of September; during October there were a few about Mohammedia, where I last saw one on Nov. 5.

On several occasions I saw this bird coming in from the north over sea during the day.

Porzana maruetta. Spotted Crake.

On Sept. 27, in the desert a few miles east of Kantara, a man brought a live bird to me which he had found under a blanket in his tent.

Gallinula chloropus. Moorhen.

Occasionally on the Sweet-Water Canal. On Sept. 3 a man brought a live bird to me which he had caught in a hole in one of the sand-hills near the sea; it must almost certainly have been a migrant.

Ædicnemus sp.? Stone-Curlew.

A single bird near Suez on May 22.

Ægialitis geoffroyi. Geoffroy's Plover.

One at Ballah on July 2 with some Kentish Plovers on a salt inundation, but I saw nothing more of this species there, nor signs of their breeding; in September and October it was quite common along the edge of the sea at Mohammedia and along the coast towards Port Said.

Ægialitis cantiana. Kentish Plover.

I saw only an odd bird at Suez in April, but found it breeding in some numbers on the salt-marshes at Ballah in June and caught a number of youngsters on June 25.

In the autumn there were a few on the north coast in early September, but I saw them more commonly in October along the edge of the sea at Mohammedia.

Ægialitis hiaticola. Ringed Plover.

Odd birds and a small flock at Suez in the first half of April; in October and November on the coast at Mohammedia.

Ægialitis curonica. Little Ringed Plover.

On April 3 there were three in a patch of salt-marsh about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the sea (the Gulf of Suez); all were yellow-legged and evidently of this species.

Hoplopterus spinosus. Spur-winged Plover.

I saw only two of this abundant Egyptian bird—a few miles east of Kantara on Sept. 28.

Vanellus vulgaris. Lapwing.

One seen on Nov. 22 at Bir-el-Abd and four flying west on the following day; at Mazar there were always a few among the sand-hills, and I noticed an increase between Dec. 5 and 8.

Hæmatopus ostralegus. Oyster-catcher.

Ten at Port Tewfik (Suez) on April 2 and other odd birds during that month.

Recurvirostra avocetta. Avocet.

Only one seen in the spring at Port Tewfik on April 15; in the autumn it occurred quite frequently passing from east to west along the coast, where I first saw a flock on Aug. 19 and on several occasions in September. On Nov. 7 there was a flock of some hundreds on one of the shallow stretches of water at Port Said.

Gallinago cælestis. Common Snipe.

This bird, so abundant in Egypt in suitable places, I only saw twice in the Canal zone—at Shallufa in March—and never in Sinai.

Tringa alpina. Dunlin.

In the spring at Suez there were a score on April 8 and a small flock on April 14; on Sept. 5 a single bird was at a small water-hole half-way between Mohammedia and Romani; about the middle of October there were always a few to be seen at Mohammedia.

Calidris arenaria. Sanderling.

Abundant early in September along the coast between Port Said and Mohammedia; eight at Mohammedia on Oct. 15.

Totanus calidris. Redshank.

Common at Suez in April; I heard one calling at Ballah on June 25, and saw two near Bir-el-Abd on Nov. 22 by a desert-pool.

Totanus ochropus. Green Sandpiper.

On April 1 one by a pool at Shallufa; one on April 14 and three on April 23 at Suez. It occurs commonly in the Delta.

Totanus hypoleucus. Common Sandpiper.

Only seen twice: one at Suez, April 29; one near Mohammedia, Nov. 5.

Numenius arquatus. Common Curlew.

Fairly common at Suez in April, and a number still at Port Tewfik on May 28. I did not identify *N. tenuirostris* among them.

Hydrochelidon hybrida. Whiskered Tern.

Three dark-breasted Terns flew north up the Canal at Shallufa on April 1, and I am fairly confident that this was the species which I had clearly identified at Abou Zabal near Cairo in April 1915.

Sterna minuta. Little Tern.

On April 14 I saw four Little Terns at the water's edge at Suez, and I was able to approach closely enough to see their yellow bills. On Sept. 1 two Terns flying from east to west along the coast at Mohammedia were either of this species or were immature *Hydrochelidon nigra*.

Rissa tridactyla. Kittiwake.

A few immature birds at Port Said on March 15.

Larus ridibundus. Black-headed Gull.

I have a note of its occurrence very commonly along the Canal from Suez to Port Said in February, March, April, and November.

Larus ichthyaëtus. Great Black-headed Gull.

I saw a number in the Gulf of Suez and an odd bird up the Canal as far as Kubri on May 28.

Larus cachinnans. Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.

Common in March, April, and November at Port Said and Shallufa (on the Canal), and probably at other times; at Mohammedia in September and a large flock always at El Arish in January, where they often flew over the town as if accustomed to feed there. They seemed to be tame, and on occasions settled among our bivouacs.

Larus fuscus. Lesser Black-backed Gull.

During April there was a large flock at Suez, and I noticed it increased greatly about April 29, when they were probably passing. I saw this bird in February, March, April, and May along the Canal.

Puffinus yelkouanus. Levantine Shearwater.

Odd birds on Sept. 1 and 5 off Mohammedia. Mr. H. H. Storey picked up one of this species there.

XXIX.—*Further Notes on the Birds of the Province of Fohkien in South-east China.* By J. D. D. LA TOUCHE, M.B.O.U.

WITH the exception of the two Gulls, which were obtained several years ago, the birds mentioned in the following notes have been received at various times from Foochow during the past four years.

The following are to be added to the birds formerly recorded from the Province of Fohkien :—

Emberiza melanocephala.
 — *rustica.*
Chelidon dasyopus.
Hirundo erythrogaster.
Merops sumatranus.
Sphenocercus sieboldi.
Sterna media.
Larus glaucescens.
 — *affinis.*

Puffinus griseus pescadorei.
Plegadis falcinellus.
Demiegretta sacra.
Butorides amurensis.
Sarcidiornis melanonota.
Fuligula rufina.
 — *baeri.*
Oidemia americana.